

## NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS ABROAD.

China, Canton. Mr. F. D. Cheshire, reports under date of July 8, 1915, on the lichee: The lichee, one of the most widely known fruits throughout China, is produced in South China, chiefly in the provinces of Fukien and Kwangtung; it is also produced in Szechuan. A small quantity is grown in other southern provinces, but none whatever in the north. It is said that lichees grown in other than the three provinces named are inferior in quality and almost unfit for edible purposes.

For the sake of accuracy, this report will be confined to the lichees grown only in Kwangtung Province.

The principal lichee producing districts in Kwangtung Province are Namhoi, Pun Yu, Tsang Shing, and Tung Kun. Some lichees are grown in the Heungshan, Shuntak, and Samshui districts, and while they are produced in abundance in the Yeung Kong and Shui Tung districts, they are of a very inferior quality.

The fruit of the lichee tree, when plucked, rapidly deteriorates, and can be kept in its original state for only three days at most. A plan has been adopted for preserving the fruit by storing it in bamboo after sprinkling with a weak salt solution and sealing both end of the bamboo with clay. In this manner the fruit remains fresh for a period of about two weeks, allowing of its being exported to Shanghai and Peking, and ports on the Yangtsze River.

Dried lichees are very popular in foreign countries. The fruit is dried in two ways, - by sun and by fire. The sun-dried lichee, when under the drying process, is likely to deteriorate and, consequently, it commands a better price; besides it has a finer flavor than the fire-dried fruit. There are but two or three species of the lichee which are suitable for drying purposes, viz., the *no-maichi*, the *kwai-mi*, and the *wai-chi*.

The purchase of lichees by the wholesale dealers from the producers is largely one of speculation, the former bargaining with the latter for the fruit during the months of April and May, while the trees are yet in blossom, a certain amount being agreed upon for each tree. In the event of the tree being unfruitful, the purchaser must suffer the consequences, and vice versa.

The actual quantity of fruit produced annually is a difficult matter to ascertain accurately, but from information received from the lichee producers, the total amount of lichees annually produced in the Kwangtung Province is estimated at 1,500,000 pounds.